

ADMONITIONS against SWEARING, SABBATH-BREAKING and DRUNKENNESS; with Abstracts of the PENAL LAWS now in Force against those VICES.

ADMONITION against SWEARING.

Neighbour,

THE Profanation of God's holy Name, by *Curfing and Swearing*, to which you cannot but be sensible that you are *addicted*, is a most heinous Sin.—There are none so ignorant, as not to know, that it is a Breach of the *third* Commandment, "*Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold Him guiltless who taketh his Name in vain.*" *Exod. xx. 7.* Our Saviour has expressly forbid it in our common Conversation, "Swear not at all," *Matt. v. 34.* And so likewise has the Apostle St. James, in these Words, "Above all Things, my Brethren, *swear not*, lest you fall into Condemnation," *James v. 12.* There is likewise an awful Threatening against Swearers in the Prophet *Zachariah*, where it is said, "That the *Curse*, which goeth over the whole Earth against Wickedness, shall cut them off," *Zech. v. 3.*

Consider further, that, besides being thus forbidden and threatened in the Word of God, *Swearing* is a notorious Breach of Civility and Good Manners.—He who lives in the Fear of God, is so far from *Curfing and Swearing*, that it greatly shocks, grieves, and affronts Him to hear others thus offending. There is no *Excuse* to be made for it. It has neither Honour, Pleasure, nor Profit attending it.—There is no Temptation to it:—Neither can you say your *Constitution* inclines you to *swear*: It is teaching *others*, especially *Children*, the Language of Hell. We are taught by Christ to pray daily, *Hallowed be thy Name.* Angels praise it:—*Devils* tremble at it:—and shall *Man* alone dare to blaspheme it by *Curfing and Swearing*?

This is a *Warning* of too great Importance to be *sighted*. Let it convince you of the Sinfulness, Folly, and Danger of *vain Swearing*. Reflect at the same Time how long you have lived in this Course; and for what a dreadful Number of Oaths you have to account. Humble yourself in the Sight of God; and earnestly bewail the

Profaneness of your Life. Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you may even yet be *saved*. But then remember your *Faith and Repentance* cannot be sincere, till you firmly *resolve*, by the Grace of God, that from henceforth "your Conversation shall be such, as becometh the Gospel of Christ," *Phil. i. 27.*—And in order to avoid this Sin for the future, let me earnestly beseech you, as a sincere Friend to your Soul, to guard against that *Passion*, by which you are provoked to *swear*, and blaspheme the God of Heaven.—The Swearer is trifling in the grossest Manner with the most tremendous of all Beings.—Remember the Apostle's Warning, *Be not deceived: God is not mocked*, *Gal. vi. 7.* Consider how dreadful would be your State, if God, when thus provoked and defied, should inflict on you *that Damnation*, which you so unnaturally wish for *yourselves*, or wantonly and cruelly imprecate on others; and so "*your own Tongue fall on you*," *Psal. lxxiv. 8.*

Let me entreat you also not to allow yourself in a wicked Habit of bringing in the sacred Names of God, *Jesus*, and *Christ*, to express your *Wonder*, or confirm your *Promises*, or *Purposes*, in the most slight and trivial Matters. It is in vain to hope, that your *Mind* will preserve a serious Regard to God and to *Christ*, if your *Tongue* be allowed a common and irreverential Use of these sacred Names, in Contempt of the Authority of God, of our blessed Saviour, and his Apostles.—Pray to God daily for his Mercy, Pardon, and Assistance.—Avoid the Company of the *Profane*, lest you again "*learn [their] Language, and [their] Ways*," and get a Snare to your Soul," *Prov. xxii. 25.*—Take this Admonition kindly, as it is kindly meant;—and consider it as coming from one, who has a sincere Desire to do you Good, and a real Concern, as his Fellow-Creature, for your Credit in *this* World, and your Happiness in the *next*.

LAWS against SWEARING.

"If any Person shall profanely curse or swear, and be thereof convicted on Confession, or the Oath of one Witness before a Magistrate, he shall forfeit as follows:—Every Day-Labourer, common Soldier, common Sailor, and common Seaman, *1s.*—and every other Person under the Degree of a Gentleman, *2s.*—and every Person of, or above the Degree of a Gentleman, *5s.* And for a second Offence after Conviction, double, &c."

"If any Person shall curse or swear in the hearing of a Constable, the said Constable is required to prosecute: And in Case of omitting his Duty, he shall on Conviction, upon the Oath of one Witness, forfeit *40s.*" *19 Geo. II.*

ADMONITION against SABBATH-BREAKING.

Neighbour,

THE Profanation of the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, is become so shamefully common among all Ranks and Orders of Men, that it is the Duty of every one, who wishes well to his Fellow Christians, to the rising Generation, and to our Country, to do all in his Power to *awaken*, and *reform* those who are chargeable with it.

Let me therefore remind you, that—at the Creation God appointed *one* Day in *seven* to be kept *holy* for religious Purposes:—that he has required this in the *Law of Moses*, particularly in the *fourth* Commandment:—and that it is required likewise in Effect by *Jesus Christ*.—The Lord's Day, so called in Remembrance of his Resurrection on that Day, was kept *holy* by the Apostles, and first Christians, and in all Christian Nations ever since. It is therefore most evidently the Duty of every Christian to observe it, as a Day of Rest from Work, Buying, Selling, Travelling, except in Cases of great and unavoidable Necessity; and from all Kinds of Sport and Diversions: And He is to employ this Day in attending at Church both Morning and Afternoon—in reading the Bible and good Books at Home—in instructing his Family—in serious Reflections on the Duties he is to discharge:—on the Temptations to which, through the following Week and future Life, he may be exposed;—on what is likely to be his Doom and State through Eternity;—and in earnest Prayers to God for Pardon, Assistance, Strength, and eternal Life, through the Merits and Mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To spend the sacred Time in Amusement, and Idleness, or in frequenting Coffee-houses, Taverns, or Ale-houses, and to neglect the

public and private Duties of the Day, is an high Affront to the Authority of God,—a base ungrateful Return for the Love and Grace of our Saviour,—an unspeakable Injury to Yourself, to your Family, and to the Nation. It exposes you to the Penalties which *our Law* inflicts on Sabbath-breakers, and tends to bring the Judgments of God on our Country. It leads you to bad Company, to an Habit of Idleness, Drunkenness, Extravagance, and so to Ruin; as many have acknowledged, who have suffered at the Place of Execution. It finally tends to destroy all serious Thought and religious Concern, to harden the Heart, and so exposes you to *everlasting* Destruction.

You are therefore, by all these Arguments, earnestly entreated to consider your Duty and Interest; immediately to leave off this pernicious Practice of *Sabbath-breaking*, and apply yourself vigorously to the proper Duties of that holy Day. It is particularly desired, that, the next Time you go to Church, you would consider the *Response*, which you make after the Minister hath read the *fourth* Commandment; and that it will be base Hypocrisy, and an horrid Insult on the Heart-searching God, to beseech him to *incline your Heart to keep that Law*, unless you are sincerely and fully *resolved* to keep it.—The Sabbath, comfortable Reflection! was designed as a Day of Blessing: May you never more by your Idleness, Profaneness, or any other Cause, turn that Blessing into a Curse.—For Death will soon clothe (for ever clothe) the Day of Grace and Mercy. And, if you now neglect, especially after this faithful Warning, "the Things which make for your Peace, they will then be hid from your Eyes," *Luke xix. 42.* you will then find no Place for Repentance.

LAWS against SABBATH-BREAKING.

"No Tradesman, Artificer, Workman, Labourer, or other Person whatsoever, shall exercise any worldly Labour, Business, or work at their ordinary Calling upon the Lord's Day, or any Part thereof, on Pain of forfeiting *5s.* or of being put into the Stocks for two Hours."

"No Butcher is allowed to sell Meat; and no Person whatsoever is to expose to Sale any Ware, Merchandise, Fruits, Herbs, or Goods whatsoever, on the Lord's Day, or any Part thereof, on Pain of forfeiting the same."

"No Carrier with any Horse, nor Waggoner with any Waggon, nor Drover with any Cattle, shall travel or come to his Inn or Lodging on the Lord's Day, on Pain of forfeiting *20s.* And whoever travels on his ordinary Occupation on the Lord's Day, if robbed, the Hundred is not to be answerable for it." *3 Car. C. 1. 29 Car. II. C. 7. S. 5.*

"All Persons, not having reasonable Excuse, shall resort to their Parish Church or Chapel, or to some Congregation of religious Worship allowed by the Toleration Act, (on every Sunday) otherwise be liable to a certain Penalty [of *1s.*]" *1 Eliz. C. 2. S. 14, 25. 3 Jac. C. 4. S. 27, 28.*

ADMONITION against DRUNKENNESS.

Neighbour,

DRUNKENNESS is a Vice which destroys your Health, wastes your Time and Money, and so injures your Family: It robs you likewise of your good Name, brings a Reproach on that holy Religion you profess, and is not consistent with a due Use of your Reason: Nay, (which is far more dreadful than any of these Considerations) it will certainly exclude you for ever from the Kingdom of Heaven. This you will see in holy Scripture, by the following Texts. *Be not deceived; neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, nor Adulterers, nor Effeminate, nor Abusers of themselves with Mankind, nor Thieves, nor Covetous, nor Drunkards, nor Revilers, nor Extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God,* *1 Cor. vi. 9, 10.*—*And be not drunk with Wine, wherein is Excess; but be filled with the Spirit,* *Eph. v. 18.*—*Let us walk honestly as in the Day, not in Rioting and Drunkenness, not in Chambering and Wantonness, not in Strife and Envy, Rom. xiii. 13.*—*They, who are guilty of Envyings, Murders, Drunkenness, Revellings, and such like, shall not inherit the Kingdom of God,* *Gal. v. 21.*—*Take Heed to yourselves, lest at any Time your Hearts be overcharged with Surfeiting and Drunkenness, and Cares of this Life, and so that Day come upon you unawares,* *Luke xxi. 34.*—*Wo unto them, that rise up early in the Morning, that they may follow strong Drink, that continue until Night, till Wine inflame them. And the Harp and the Viol, the Tabret and Pipe, and Wine are in their Feasts: But they regard not the Work of the Lord, neither consider the Operation of his Hands,* *Isa. v. 11, 12.*—*Wo unto them, that are mighty to drink Wine; and Men of Strength to mingle strong Drink,* *Isa. v. 22.*—*Wo unto Him, who giveth his Neighbour Drink; who putteth the Bottle to him,*

and maketh him drunken also; that he may look on his nakedness, *Hab. ii. 15.* that is, get out the Secrets of his Heart, or expose him to Ridicule. It is a *scriptural* Injunction to offer friendly Reproof to an offending Brother, namely, *Thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy Neighbour, and not suffer Sin upon him,* *Levit. xix. 17.* It is therefore, out of Love to your Soul, that you are thus reminded of the Sinfulness of excessive Drinking; and warned to forbear, as ever you hope to escape eternal Misery; for St. Paul expressly affirms, that *Drunkards shall not inherit the Kingdom of God,* *1 Cor. vi. 10.* Think a little on this plain Question, *Are you going towards Heaven or Hell?* To which of these two will Drunkenness lead?

By all these Considerations you are most earnestly entreated to examine into the State of your Soul; and, for the Time to come, conscientiously to avoid both the Drink, the Company, and the Occasion, which would tempt, or lead you to this Vice: For assure yourself, if you either despise, or will not make a timely and proper Use of what has been said to preserve you from this Vice; if you will not pray, and strive against it, and avoid all Temptations to it, this very Admonition, which you now read, will both accuse and condemn you at the Judgment-seat of Christ. As therefore you value your immortal Soul, apply to this Judge now: Make Him your Friend, by believing in Him and obeying Him, which is the only Way to be saved. Repent of your Sins: Harken to this well-intended Admonition: Receive it thankfully; and for God's Sake, your Family's Sake, and your own, let it have its due Effect on your Life and Practice for the Future.

LAWS against DRUNKENNESS.

"Every Person lawfully convicted of Drunkenness, shall for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of *5s.* to the Use of the Poor: In Default of Payment, the Sum to be levied by Distress; and in Default of Distress, the Offender is to be committed to the Stocks, there to remain for the Space of Six Hours." *4 Jac. C. 5. S. 2.*

"For the second Offence, he is to be bound for his good Behaviour, with two Sureties, in a Recognizance of *10l.*" *4 Jac. C. 5. S. 6.*

"Respecting Publicans. The Justices at the Time of granting the Licence, shall take a Recognizance from the Party, not to suffer any unlawful Games or other Disorders in his House." *5 Ed. VI. C. 25.*

"If any Alehouse-Keeper shall be convicted of being drunk, or of tipling, or suffers others to spend their Time needlessly in his House, and to sit tipling, he shall be disabled for the Space of three Years to keep any such Alehouse." *7 Jac. C. 10. 1 Car. C. 7.*

"And all Constables, Church-Wardens, &c. shall, in their several Oaths incident to their Offices, be charged to prevent the said Offence; and if they neglect their Duty, every Person so offending, shall forfeit *40s.*" *1 Jac. C. 9. S. 4. 4 Jac. C. 5. S. 7.*